

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

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A<sub>1</sub> 12. A diagnostic method for detecting diseases associated with an autoimmune response to hTM in affected tissue, comprising detecting CEP-hTM complexes in a tissue, the presence of CEP-hTM complexes being indicative of the disease.

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Please add the following claim:

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A<sub>2</sub> 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the tissue is a circulating tissue.

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